WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing device comprising:

detecting means for detecting whether a specific object is included in an input image;

setting means for setting a correction parameter based on the detection result; and

correcting means for correcting the input image by using the set correction parameter.

2. The image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein the setting means comprises:

histogram creating means for creating a histogram of the input image; and

table creating means that calculates a highlight, a shadow, and exposure conditions of the image from the histogram, and that creates a lookup table for correction, based on the calculation results.

3. The image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein the specific object is a human face, and wherein the detecting means detects the position and the size of a region of the face to create information allowing the detected region to be identified.

4. The image processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

histogram creating means for creating a histogram of a brightness component of the input image;

calculating means for detecting a highlight and a shadow of the image from the histogram, and calculating a gradation correcting condition; and

gradation correcting means for correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition,

wherein the detecting means detects whether the specific object is included in the input image that has been corrected by the gradation correcting means; and

wherein the setting means sets the correction parameter based on the histogram of the region of the detected specific object.

5. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

creating a histogram of an input image;

setting a first gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram;

correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;

extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;

creating a histogram of the specific object region that

has been extracted;

setting a second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the specific object region that has been created; and

correcting the image in the specific object region by using the set second gradation correcting condition.

6.   The image processing method according to Claim 5, wherein the first gradation correcting condition comprises performing a correction in accordance with a highlight and a shadow of the input image.

7.   The image processing method according to Claim 6, further comprises a step of performing an exposure correction with respect to the input image.

8.   The image processing method according to Claim 7, the exposure correction step comprises determining an exposure correcting condition in response to an in-focus position included in photographic information about the input image.

9.   The image processing method according to Claim 6, further comprises a step of rotating the input image in response to a posture during photographing, the posture

being included in the photographic information about the input image.

10. The image processing method according to Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

determining a statistical value of the specific object region;

determining a target value from the statistical value; and

determining the second gradation correcting condition by using the target value.

11. A recording medium on which a program for implementing the image processing method as recited in Claim 6, is recorded.

12. An image processing method comprising:

detecting step for detecting whether a specific object is included in an input image;

setting step for setting a correction parameter based on the detection result; and

correcting step for correcting the input image by using the set correction parameter.

13. An image processing system comprising:

means for generating a histogram of an input image;

means for setting a first gradation correcting condition based on the histogram;

means for correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;

means for extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;

means for creating a histogram of the specific object region that has been extracted;

means for setting a second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the specific object region; and

means for correcting the image in the specific object region by using the set second gradation correcting condition.

14. The image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein the first gradation correcting condition comprises performing a correction in accordance with a highlight and a shadow of the input image.